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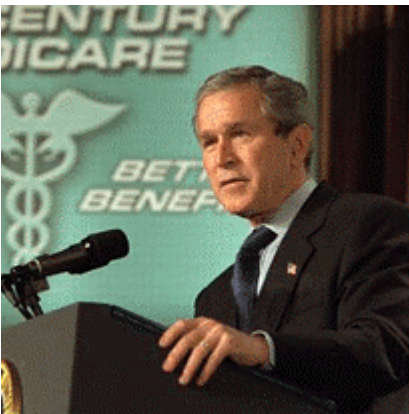
# **THE BUSH CREDIBILITY GAP**



*The Photographic History of the Bush Administration Putting  
Its Mouth Where Its Money Isn't*

# The Bush Credibility Gap: Medicare

## *Bush Rhetoric vs. Reality (March 6<sup>th</sup> Update)*

Bush Event	Bush Rhetoric	Reality
<p><b><u>Medicare Modernization</u></b></p>  <p>Bush touts the need to adequately fund Medicare in Michigan [1/29/03]</p>	<p>“Within that budget I proposed last night is a substantial increase in Medicare funding of \$400 billion on top of what we already spend, over the next 10 years. This is a commitment that America must make to our seniors. A reformed and strengthened Medicare system, plus a healthy dosage of Medicare spending in the budget, will make us say firmly, we fulfilled our promise to the seniors of America.” – Bush, 1/29/03</p>	<p>Under Bush’s proposal, there should be a roughly \$40 billion increase in Medicare each year for a decade. However, Bush’s 2004 budget proposes just \$6 billion – <b><u>85% less than what would be needed to meet his goal.</u></b> Additionally, his budget would leave 67% of the total \$400 billion pledge to be spent after 2008. [Bush Budget, pg. 318]</p>
<p><b><u>Medicare Solvency</u></b></p>  <p>Bush unveils his Medicare drug and modernization plan at a White House photo op [3/4/03]</p>	<p>“Medicare does more than meet the needs of our elderly. It reflects the values of our society. We will set it on firm financial ground.” – Bush, 4/3/2000</p>	<p>Two days after Bush unveiled his prescription drug program at a White House photo op, the Wall Street Journal “President Bush's point man for Medicare said the administration's proposal to change the system will worsen its long-term financial problem, not improve it. In a briefing, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said the cost of adding prescription-drug benefits under Medicare would exceed savings gleaned from the shifting of millions of beneficiaries to private insurance plans -- even over a 75-year time frame. <b><u>He said passage of Mr. Bush's plan would ‘probably’ accelerate the date the Medicare trust fund becomes insolvent</u></b>” [Wall Street Journal, 3/6/03]</p>

**Credibility Gap:** 1a: A lack of trust; 1b: lack of believability; 2: Discrepancy (Webster’s Dictionary)